



**MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Investing in STEM for local student's future**

26 April - The University of Newcastle's award-winning annual Science and Engineering Challenge will deliver three exciting days in Muswellbrook on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week. The event comprises of two Primary School days and one High School day, thanks to a partnership with Yancoal Australia.

Each day, up to 250 students from eight primary or high school teams will collaborate to solve real-world challenges such as building an earthquake resilient tower, building hovercrafts, or sending encrypted messages with light. Yancoal's investment in the challenge will ensure this program continues to be offered to students in the Upper Hunter.

Yancoal's Mount Thorley Warkworth and Ashton Coal Mine are joint sponsors of the University's Science and Engineering Challenge, a proud partnership that has been in place since 2002. This makes Yancoal Australia the longest serving sponsor of the Science and Engineering Challenge.

Yancoal Mount Thorley Warkworth's General Manager, David Bennett was proud to continue its support of the challenge.

"We recognise the positive impact the challenge has on local students and are proud to be a part of it year-on-year. A strong STEM education is critical to working in mining and this program helps educate and drive the next generation of mining innovators into our industry.

"The challenge always offers a fantastic program for local aspiring science and engineering students in our community," said David.

The not-for-profit Science and Engineering Challenge program launched in 2000, delivers a unique and accessible program in every Australian State and Territory, stimulating interest in STEM fields by exploring scientific concepts with practical problem solving.

After a difficult couple of years due to the pandemic, the Science and Engineering Challenge has bounced back strong and are proud to announce they have seen over 400,000 students nationally since its inception.

The Rotary Club of Muswellbrook have been integral to the success of the event as the main body responsible for the organisation of the event. The partnership between Rotary, Yancoal Australia and the University of Newcastle has been the key to the longevity of the event in the Upper Hunter.

**For more information please contact:**

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